

# DECLARATION

30 of July 1651. Post Meridiana,  
Ses. 17.



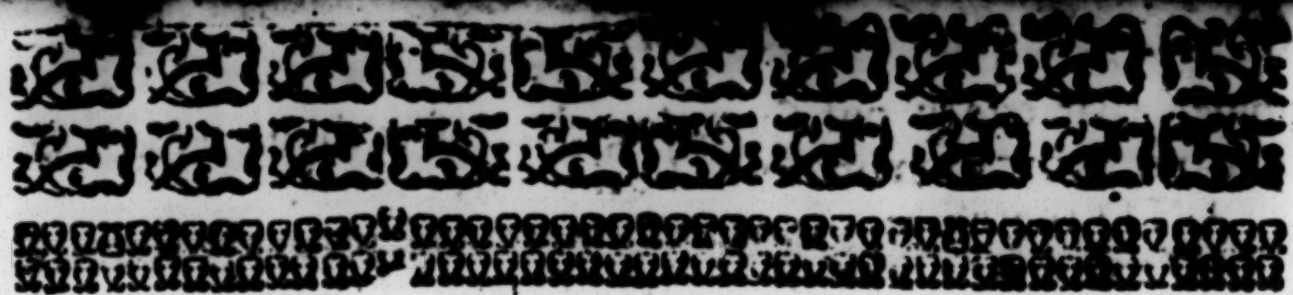
# Aberdene

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# WARNING and DECLARATION.

from the Generall Assembly at Dundie

The 30 of July, 1651. Post Meridiem

Seß. 17.



Albeit the LORD hath hitherto carryed on His own Work in this Kirk, by making His servants carefully to watch against the Enemies. therof on the right hand and on the left, that the Ship of his Kirk should neither split upon the Rock of Malignancy nor Sectarine; yet the restless Adversary of CHRIST'S little Flock, ceaseth not to make use of the corruptions of all sorts of men, both good and bad, to cause the rootes and seedes of both those evils to trouble the LORDS Plantation amongst us. And therefore it is incumbent to vs (whom the LORD hath set on the Watch Tower and conveened in CHRIST'S Court, mercifully yet preserved in its authority amongst us) to give Warning to this whole Kirk to beware of both these evils.

AND first for that bitter roote of Malignancy, whereby, under false pretence of affection to the King, but reall intention to promote base Self-interest, the work of Reformation and promoving of the Covenant in these three Kingdomes, hath beene and yet may be vnder-mynded, opposed, or slighted: Albeit many false suspitions are intertained and scandels verced of us; yet are wee resolved by the grace of GOD (as accountable vnto Him) to kyth our wonted zeall to the utmost of our

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power



power, that every out-sprouting thereof without respect of persons, as occasion offereth, be timously curbed.

AND therefore, however wee could not by the Rules of the Word of GOD relating to the Government of the visible Church, refuse to receive into the Covenant those who did willingly submit themselves to Church-censures, and did declare their repentance for, and forsaking of their former sinfull courses, according to the Order prescribed by the Generall Assembly; yea, and it behoved us also to use the severity of discipline to drive in the disobedient, as was appointed by the Generall Assembly 1649: Yet if any after such solemn professions and vowes shall againe back-slyde vnto Malignant courses, or vent their disaffection by any Malignant expressions, Wee shall Godwilling not fail to endeavour by all the meanes committed to our Ministry, to make the Offenders according to the nature of their guilt, sensible of the wrath of GOD due to their so fearefull mocking of Repentance and of the Oath of GOD.

AND therefore Wee give timous Warning vnto all, that they would beware of justifying of any former Malignant course, persued in any bypast passage of Rebellion, or in the late unlawfull Engagement against England, or to commend any man for his wicked activity therein; Or to blast the deserved reputation of those whose constant labours have bene to advance the glorious Work of Reformation, and to establish the Throne of the King in its due subordination to GOD, so that wrath should not be upon his house from the LORD. Those men wee justly do esteeme as formerly to be for a name of praise in the Land, for their constant following of the Covenant in all the Articles thereof, and their upright endeavouring to preserve inseparably Religion, King, and Kingdome: the bearing down of which good Instruments of GODS Work, faithfull both to GOD and Man, cannot but speak aloude in the eares of all who constantly maintaine the true prin-



## *& Declaration &c.*

principles of the Covenant, a throwde intention of overturning the whole work, and of al them who faithfully mynd the same. Wee exhort therefore in the LORD 1. THAT such men may be encouraged & cherished, and that piety and those who are truly pious, may not be disesteemed; farre less reproached, because of the faillings of some, who for profession of piety haue beene very eminent. 2. That all, who perceiving at last the honesty of such mens way, haue acknowledged their own former miscarriages and backslidings, and turned in againe to the right way of following of the Covenant, be excused and encouraged to go on in evidencing their Repentance, yet more, by a Chriltian and Godly conversation, a loving and affectionat carriage towards all Godly men stadfast in the Cause and Covenant, and by their honest and effectuell acting against the present Enemy, And 3. Because there are severall surmises of the continued Malignancy of such, who upon satisfactiō given, have been received according to the Order of the Kirk, spread by many of purpose, to make others withdraw from their Duety in joyning with the Forces of the Kingdome, for the relief of the Cause and Countrey: Therefore we obtest & charge in the LORD all the Members in this Kirk, to mynd the duety which they are bound to by Covenant; which is not to quite the following of the Cause and the Royall Standard lifted up for it, because some it may be, who are joyned with them therein, are Malignants; But to observe their scandalous outbreacking, whether in Malignant expressions or actions, and to delate them to the respective Iudicatories, as the fourth article of the Covenant in conscience doth oblige: And we do exhort all the Iudicatories of this Kirk, especially the presbytery of the Army, to take tryall of the guilt of any so delated, and to inflict censures according to what shall be found reall, as they wil be couutable to GOD & to this kirk: by which means, and by our earnest remonstrating to the State against their employing of some in places of trust, who by the rule of qualifications



## A Warning

cations expressed by the Commission of the Kirk, to the Parliament in December last, and last, ought not to be employed, wee hope so much may be done as may take away all pretence of just occasion of refusing to joyne with the Forces of the Kingdome in this publick Cause against the Enemy, and of sclander the Army and Iudicatoryes, as if they were making Defection to Malignancy.

But would to G O D wee had this one evill only within our selves to fight with as in former times, and that Satan having turned himself into an Angell of Light, had not so farr abused the zeall & witt of some, & simplicity of others, as to open the gape of such a rent, which of all our other tryalls and troubles, is like to have the saddest consequences, if G O D prevent it not: concerning which, wee are necessitat to say, whatever have been the intentions of those who have been instrumentall in making this Rent from publick Counsells and actings; yet the work it self, and the Spirit that hath stirred in it, hath been and yet is most effectuell for carrying on the Enemys designe, as will appeare by looking back on the severall stepps wherein this course hath been carryed on. 1. The credulity of some, believing the hypocriticall pretences of this now prevailling Enemy, mixed apparently with the crafty designe of others, would not so much as admitt the suspitiō of this enemies purposes to invade us, & thervpō did resist & retard the lifting of an Army for defence of the Cause & kingdom, vntill the Enemy was very neere our Borders, & had emitted a Declaration of of their resolution to invade us, so that all means of defence was like to be utterly marred, and the work made infeasible. 2. When the Enemy had invaded us and an Army was raised vnder pretence of purging the Forces from Engagers, and keeping the Kings interest vnder due subordination to G O D, Courses were taken, as after actings made manyfast, tending to the devyding of the Army, perplexing and discourageing the Spirits of those who laboured to be faithfull both to G O D & their King, and humouring of, and yeelding to the vnitious & dan-



dangerous motions of such, who were vnder suspitions of too much affection to the Enemy, and that not without cause, as is now too too evident. 3. When after that sad stroak at Dumbarton, the LORDS dispensation did call for wayes of healing & Union, instead of these, subtile courses were taken to engage a great part of the well-affected in the Westerne parts, to separat from the Forces of the Kingdome, whereby in stead of joynt concurring for acting against the Enemy, jealousyes were begotten and so farr encreased, that there was no smal danger feared, least the one part of our Forces should have fallen vpon the other. 4. And to highten differences yet more, vnder fair pretences of exonerating their own Consciences, and obtaining more cleerness in the Quarrell against the Enemy, many whose intentions were honest, were abused and drawn in the snare of a Remonstrance, whereby the owning of the Kings just interest, agreed vnto by the Generall Assembly and Parliament, was expressly layd aside, and his removeall from the exercise of his Royall power and Governement, advised to the Committee of Estates; the Authority of the Committee of Estates much weakned; and a way for holding up a constant division from State and Kirk, therein moulded. 5. When notwithstanding of this perrillous practise, all meanes of Union of Forces, and healing of the breach was endeavoured, by Church and State; Yet Union could not be had, except upon such conditions as the State and Church could neither in honour nor Conscience grant; whereby, and through the dissipation of those Forces which adhered to the Remonstrance, at Hamiltoun, the State and Church were necessitated either to render all up to the present rage of a perfidious and prevalent Enemy, or to make vse of such as had been formerly received to repentance for their sinfull courses, and admitt other to Repentance from whom satisfaction might be gottē, agreeable to the Rules of the Generall Assembly, that all might be employed together for the just and necessary defence of the Cause



## *A Warning*

**C**AUSE and Kingdome, Their naturall interest; obligations, and solemne tyces by Covenant, calling for the same. 6. Notwithstanding some men had thus occasioned the making up of our Forces as they now are, yet not only did they themselves refuse to joyne with them, but opposed by all means possible the raising of the Army according to publick resolutions, what by preaching, what by wryting, what by branding honest men (many of whom did beare the burthen and heat of the day when others were not?) with the odious imputations of back flyding, Covenant-breaking, and what not? Publick Fasts were sepearated from and contemned, Factions were drawn amongst the people, in a word, no means were left vnassayed to make publick resolutions, in order to the raising of the Army ineffectuall, without holding foorth any possible or probable meane for reliefe of the Kingdome: All which, whatever haue beene the intentions of men, doe of their own nature contribute no less effectually to the delivering up of all to the will of the Enemy without stroak of Sword, than that if it had beene purposely intended. 7. Notwithstanding of al which insolencies, the Commission of the last Generall Assembly carried themselves with much clemency toward their chief opposers, not only forbearing to censure them, though it was within the bounds of their Commission so to have done, But also, least their own presbyteryes should have proceeded to severity of censure, they caused cite them to the Generall Assembly, that after calme debating of the matter, and liberty given them to propound the grounds of their dissatisfaction to the full, they might either receive satisfaction Or otherwise, such courses for healing might be taken, as the Generall Assembly in their tendernes towards piety and those who are pious, and in their zeale to the distressed Cause and Kingdome, should think fit. But they unwilling to have their opinions brought to the Touch-stone of the Word of GOD and solide reason in a free Generall Assembly, did not content themselves to have protested against



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Against the Act of the Generall Assembly approving the proceedings of the Commision of the Kirk, if so be after debating on both hands, such an Act should have beene made: But before the mayne point of difference was so much as once debated, farr less any conclusion past upon it, Some of them did protest against the determination of the Assembly in that particular, as if they had stood in no need of further information from the debates of learned & gracious men, which were to be had vpon it in the face of the Generall Assembly; And others of them by an unparalleled practise (except that of the perfidious Prelats at the Generall Assembly at Glasgow, who mynded the overthrow of all Assemblies forever) did absolutely decline the authority of the generall Assembly, protesting against it as NULL; And that no respect ought to be had to the authority thereof, not only in those points of difference, but in all others how uncontroverted or steadable soever their conclusions might prove to the Cause of GOD and distressed Kingdome: So that at one stroak, what in them lyeth, they have thrown down the hedge of discipline in this kirk, & made way for every beast of the Forrest, Schismaticke and Sectmaster, to enter without controulment in this time of their being amongst us, to tread down the precious Truth and Ordinances of IESUS CHRIST; And this they have done vpon such frivolous and falsely alleaged grounds, as may make the Authority of all the Assemblies of this Kirk since the begonne Reformation, to be called in Question vpon the same or the like pretence, whereby all the glorious Work of Reformation carried on by those holy Assemblies, according to the grounds wherevpon they have walked and protested, should be at one blatt overturned from the foundations.

And therefore wee declare before GOD and the world, That we are necessitat, except wee would renounce the Cause, the Covenant, our sworn discipline, and betray the dear bought Libertyes of this Kirk, To testifie our just displeasure with, and  
zeale



all against this their rash and sinfull practise; Attesting these  
 own Consciences, that whatsoever sad consequences may fol-  
 low either to themselves or to their flocks, that they have been  
 the procurers thereof by their own miscarriage, seeing hither-  
 to wee have given such prooffe of our loathness to execute what  
 the Actes of bypast Generall Assemblies give us warrand to do in  
 such cases. 2. Wee warne all the Ministry of this Kirk, who  
 are free of this course, to save themselves from it, and those  
 who are already taken in the snare, either in whole or in part,  
 to deliver themselves quickly from it, as they would eschew  
 the just wrath of GOD and the censures of the Kirk. 3. Wee  
 charge and exhort all the Members of this Kirk to beware of  
 this or any other divisive and destructive way tending to sepa-  
 ration, and that so much the more, as those men who are now  
 the Rode of GODS anger against the three Kingdomes, have  
 come to that hieght of power which they now have, by such  
 wayes and Methods as vseth to be very taking with young be-  
 ginners vnaquainted with the deepthes of Satan. It is notourly  
 known, that this Army now infesting the Land, tooke their  
 Rise from the small spring of seaven dissenting brethren from  
 the Assembly of Divynes at Westminster, who vnder pretence  
 of affecting piety, and to have a Kirk made vp of such persons  
 only as did evidence their Regeneration, did take unto them-  
 selves and their Adherents the name of the Godly party, crying  
 them up as the only visible Saints, and crying down the As-  
 sembly of Divynes at Westminster, and all the prudent & god-  
 ly opposers of their course who were for presbyteriall Gover-  
 nement, as carnall men and meere Civilians; by which means  
 they gained much esteeme amongst the people, being admired  
 by some, & terrible to others, vntill at last they prevailed so  
 farr with the members of Parliament as to get an Army model-  
 led according to their own minde, wherein at first, under  
 pretence of purgeing of prophane men, they thrust out all  
 whom they conceived not fitt to promote their designe, & the



restrengthen themselves, did give Toleration to all sorts of  
 Sects and Malignants, yea to damnable Hæretiques, prophane  
 men, and whosoever would engage to promote their ends, as  
 at this day appeareth: So that they requyring greater perfe-  
 ctions in others, beside themselves, with whom they were to  
 have externall fellowship than the word of GOD holdeth forth  
 as necessar for other mens lawful & holy fellowship with the,  
 hath ended in this sink & pудle of Atheisme and prophanity,  
 blasphemy, & Hæresy which now infesteth the Kirk of GOD  
 in all the three Kingdomes. And therefore. 4. in speciall, wee  
 exhort, every man to be accurat in the censure of himself, and  
 charitable towards others, eschewing by all means to pass rash  
 Iudgement vpon the inward estate of others, by pronouncing  
 them naturall, destitute of grace, and that vpon slight grounds.  
 They would beware of crying vp and down men according as  
 they agree or differ with them in their opinions, of laying  
 weyght vpon, & trusting vnto whatsoever apparent point of  
 truth & piety is born in vpo their spirits, but let the by al means  
 try the spirits whether they be of God or not. They would be-  
 ware to despise the Ordinances of God, or his Messengers vpo  
 rash and carnall prejudices, or to despise the voyce of the Kirk  
 in her Indicatories; or civill authority in civill things, to who  
 we are bound to be subject in their own Spheare, not only for  
 eschewing of wrath, but even for conscience sake. And because  
 it is like that the triall of this Kirk shal be from the Sectarian  
 party & their errors, We exhort all men to acquaint themselves  
 wel with the scriptures, Cōfession of faith, & catechismes, that  
 they may know the truth for which they are to contend *against*  
*all temptations; & to eschew whatsoever may divide the visible Body of*  
*the Church of CHRIST* joyned in Covenants within this King-  
 dome or throw down the hedge of discipline, & the authority  
 of Kirk Indicatories established & preserved by the Mercy of  
 GOD, at so great expence of our means & blood for so long a  
 time amongst vs, and particularly, that they would eschew all  
 the fornamed seeds of erreur, & all occasions and means tend-

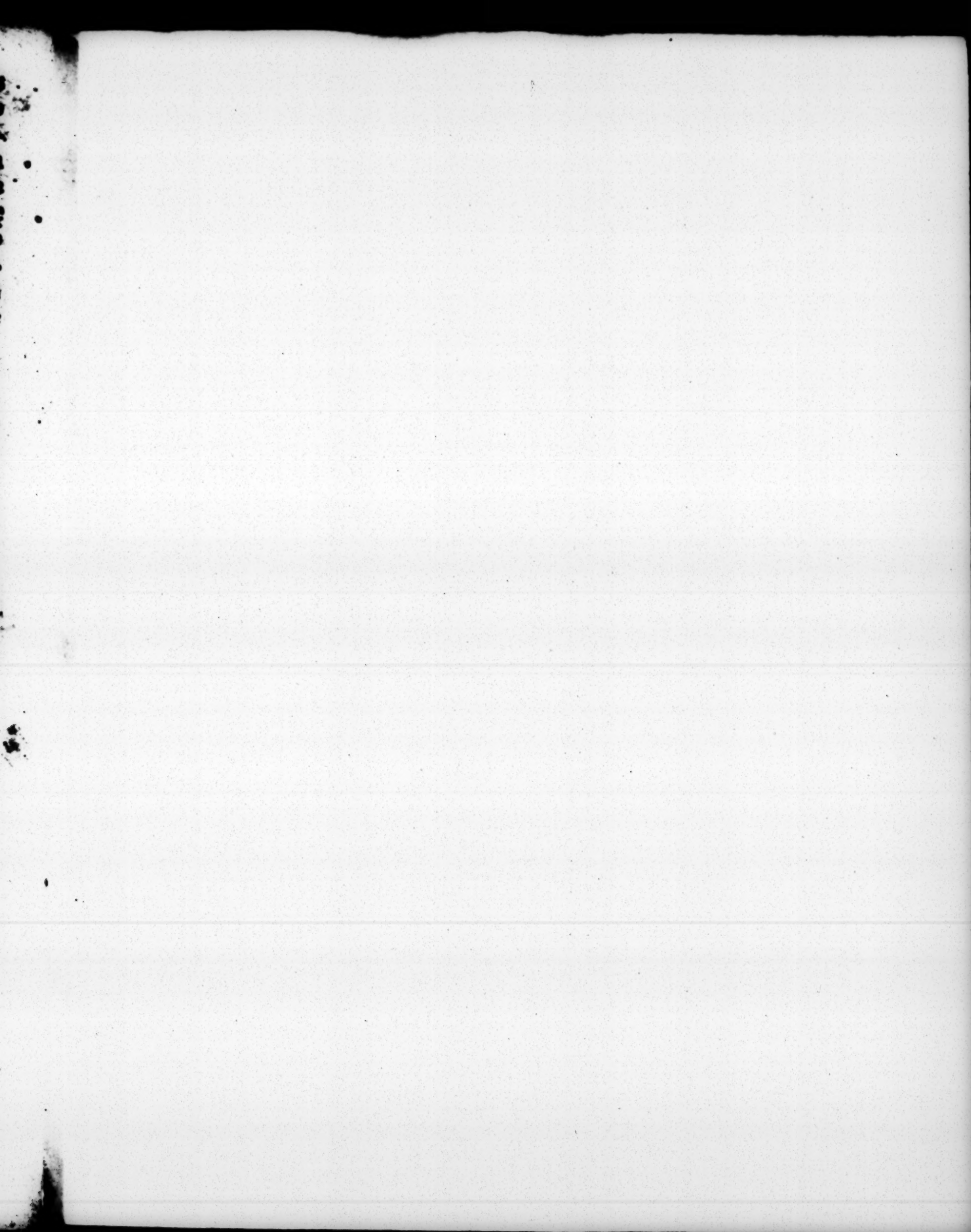


...conventicles  
...the Generall As-  
sembly, 1647 concerning secret worship, hath  
proven in the experience of our Neighbour Kingdome, to bee  
one of the most effectfull. And finally, seeing it is vncertaine  
how long this cloud of deserved wrath shall hang over & drop  
down iudgements upon our heads. Therefore we do testify  
to all, That the Doctrine, worship, & discipline of the Church  
of Scotland, as it is contained in the Nationall Covenant, the  
Solemne League & Covenant, Confession of Faith, & Cate-  
chismes, is according to the patterne of the Word, the most  
precious jewell that ever CHRIST bestowed upon a Nation,  
the glory of this Land, and that for mantaining thereof, Wee  
should not love our lives even vnto the Death. And therefore  
wee obiect all men from the highest to the lowest, to cleave  
constantly vnto these precious Truthes, to study to be sensible  
of naturall sinfullness and dayly sinnes, to impley and make vse  
of IESUS CHRIST in all his Offices, that by faith in Him  
we may be enabled vnto Christian duties, whether by doing  
or by suffering, to contending for the Truth once delivered  
to the saints, which is the substance of our Covenant and  
Casse so much opposed by the malice of Satan on all hands. And  
because our condition is now very low, and may be lower,  
wee do exhort all those who love the Lord Iesus Christ that  
the weak hands may be lifted up, and the feeble knees streng-  
thened. We have not so learned of CHRIST as to measure dan-  
ger by successe; If we would do so, we should sinne against the  
generation of his people, whose greatest victory almost in  
all ages hath been their faith and patience vnder saddest dispe-  
sitions. And are we better than these. It is sufficient therefore  
vnto us to know what is our duty, & in the strength of I E-  
SUS CHRIST to be honestly and vpon all hazards ayming  
at it. And if we perish, we perish. Let the Lord do what seemeth  
him good.

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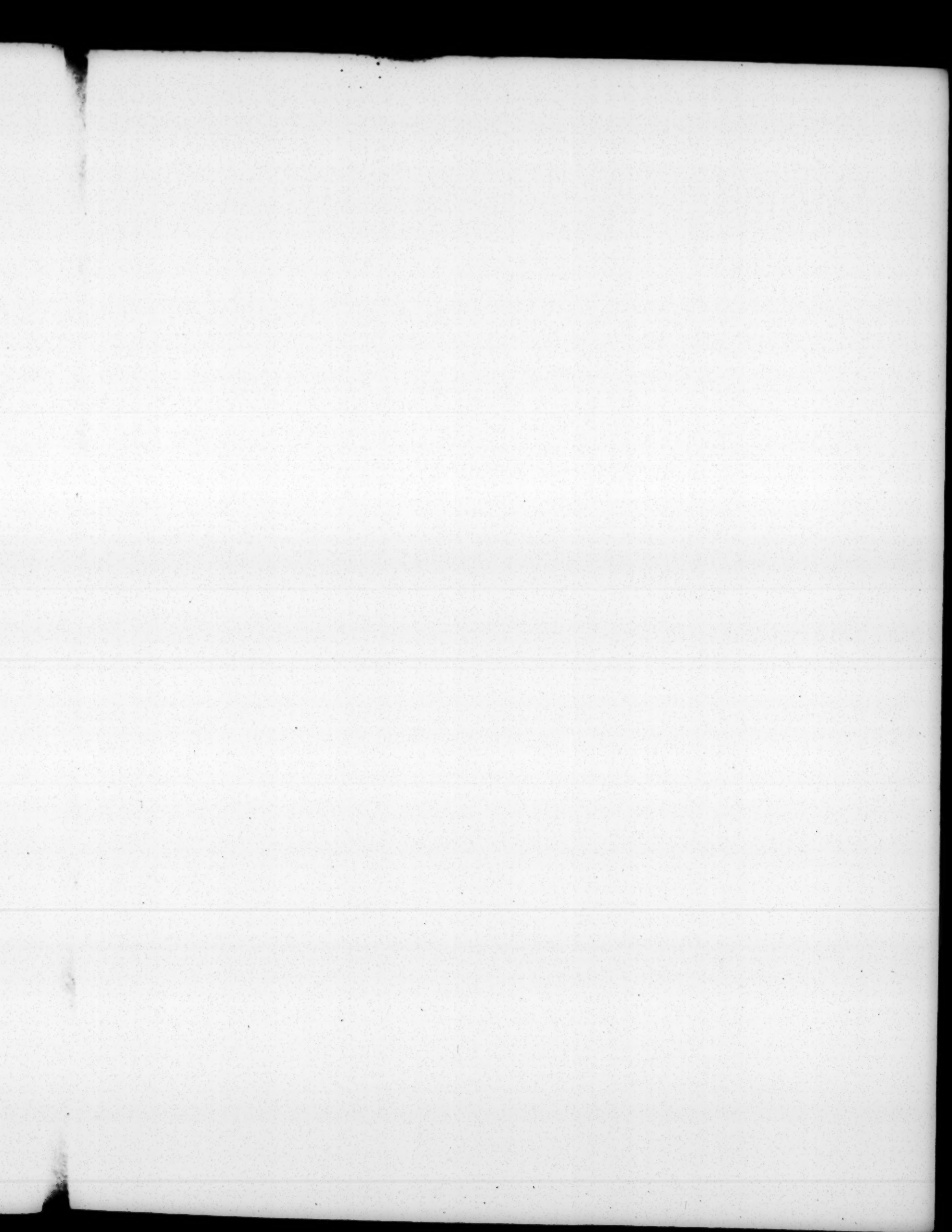








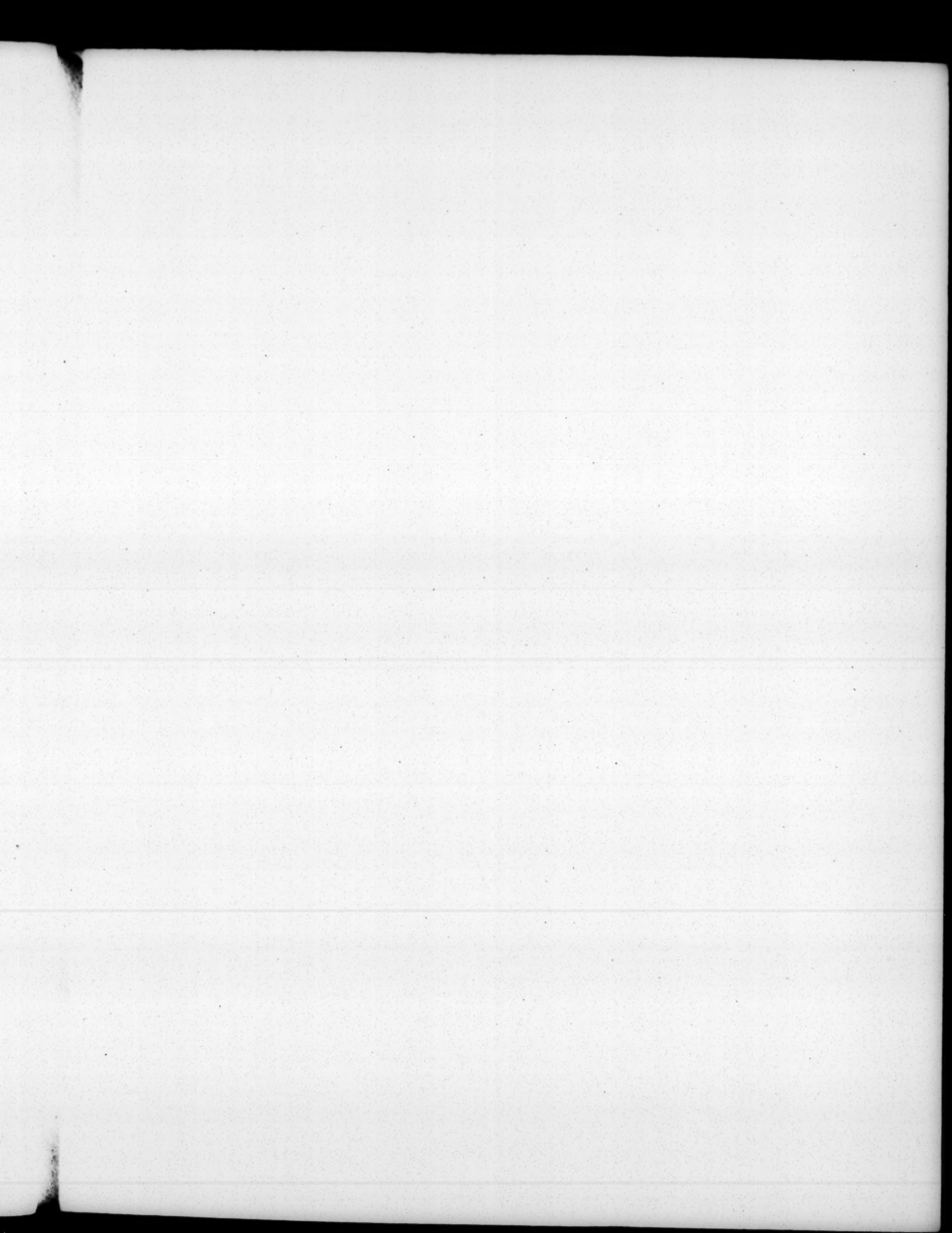






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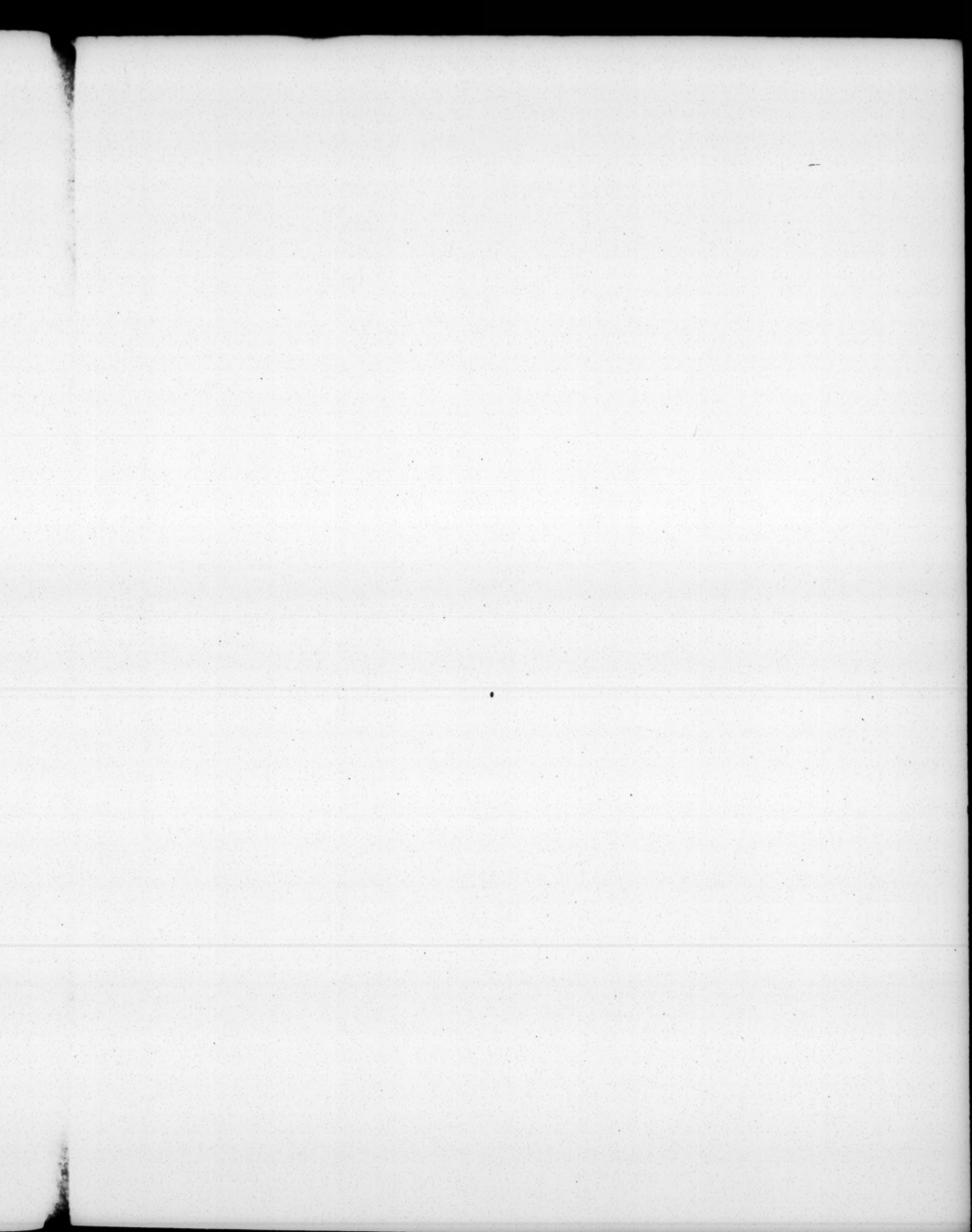


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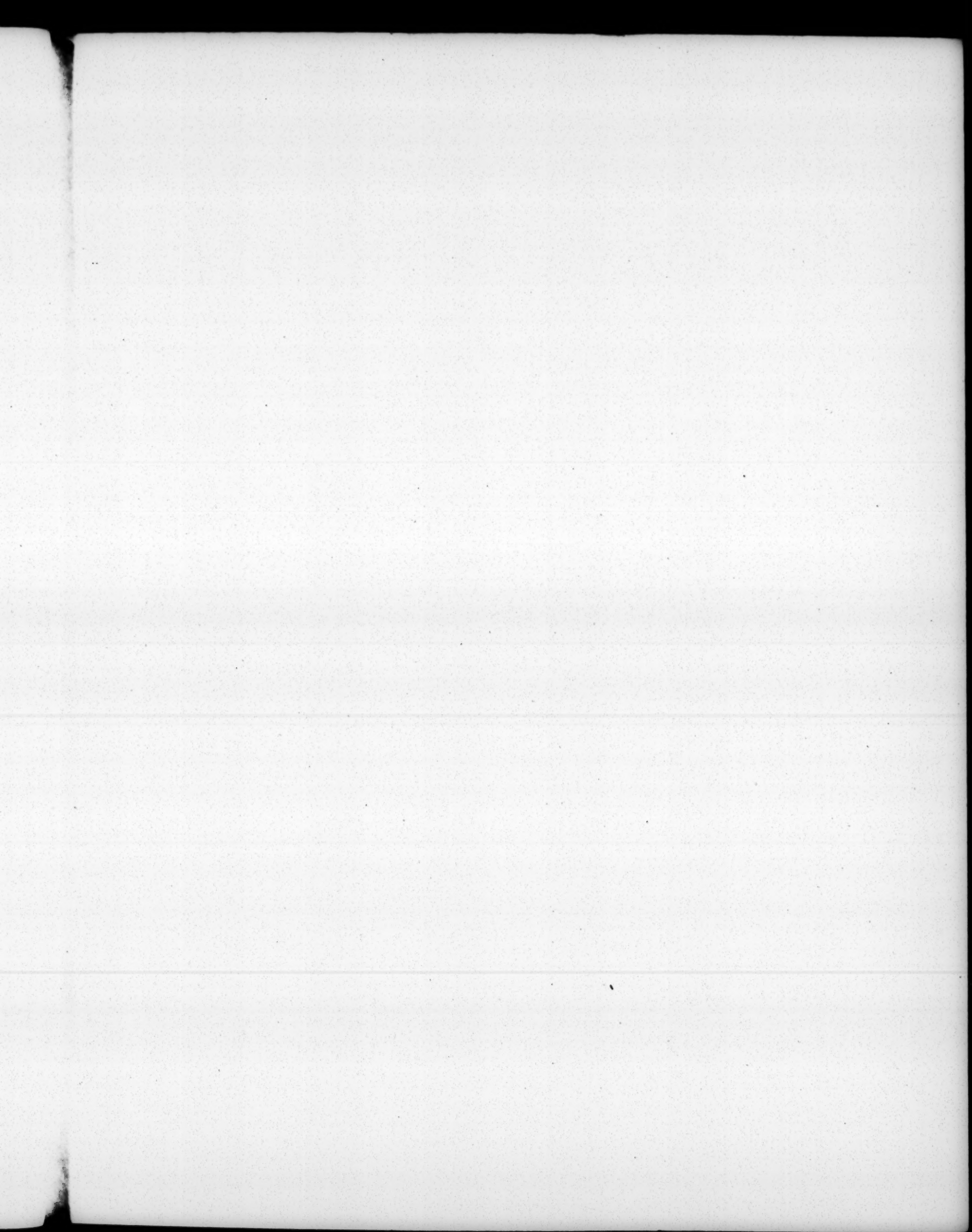


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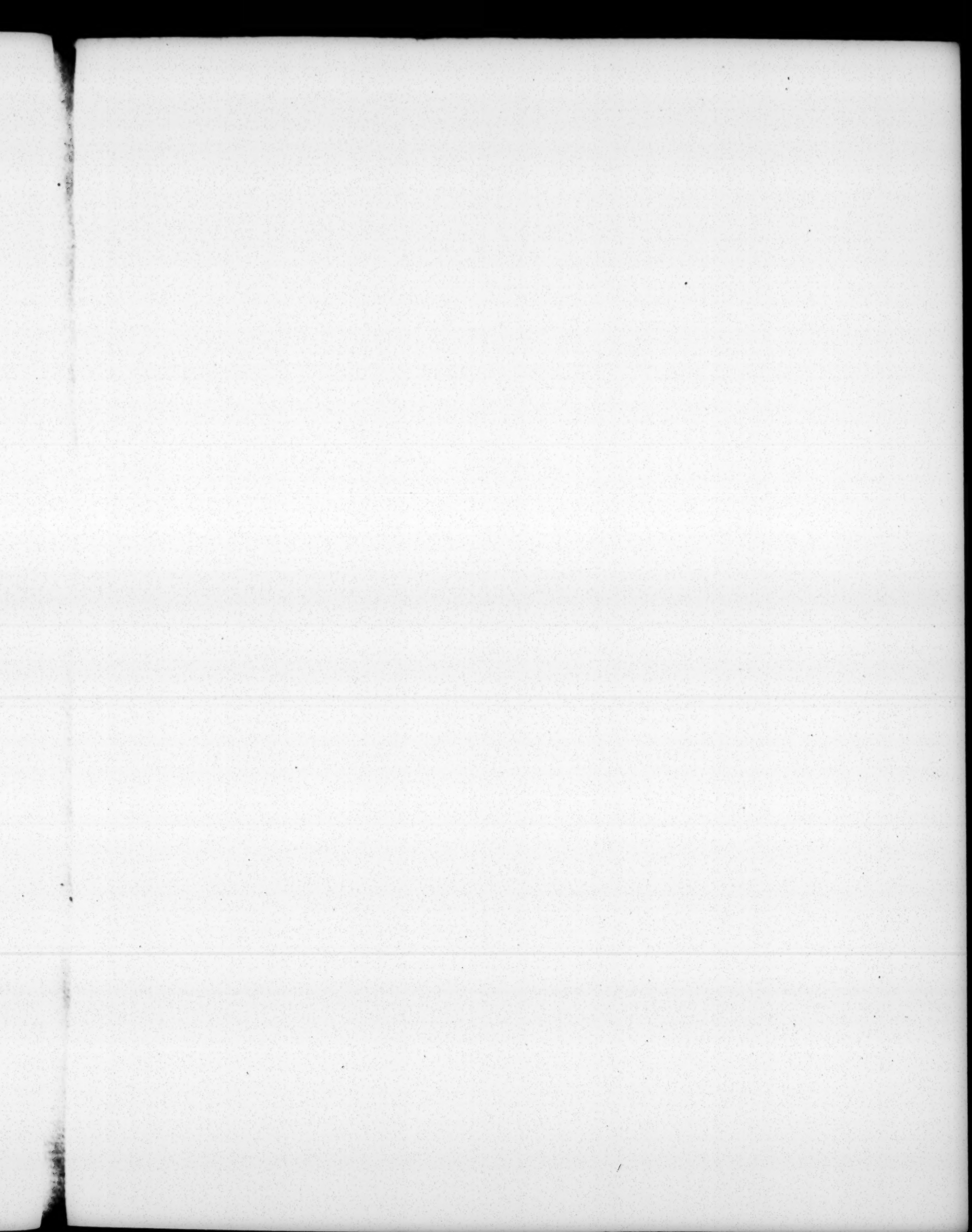


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